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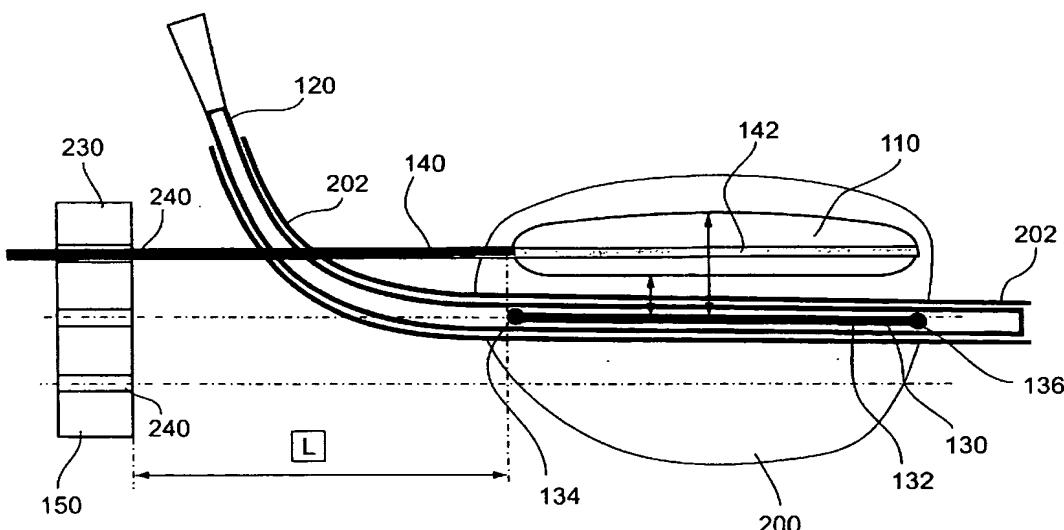
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR POSITIONING A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT



(57) Abstract: Presented are methods and apparatus for delivering a surgical instrument to a treatment site within the body of a subject, enabling accurate placement of surgical tools in areas not directly visible to a surgeon during a surgical procedure, while reducing or eliminating need for real-time imaging modalities to guide placement of those surgical tools. A treatment tool is guided to a treatment site by placing a guiding element at a reference site within a body of a subject, the reference site having a known spatial relationship to the treatment site, and utilizing a positioning tool to guide a treatment tool to a locus so positioned with respect to that guiding element that the spatial relationship between that guiding element and that locus is substantially similar to the spatial relationship known to exist between the reference site and the treatment site, thereby positioning the treatment tool substantially at the treatment site. Methods and apparatus for treatment of Benign Prostate Hyperplasia are also presented.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A 61 B 17/00
 US CL : 606/1

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 U.S. : 606/1-3, 20-26; 128/898

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5992419 A (STERZER et al.) 30 November 1999, entire document.	1-63
Y	US 5540655 A (EDWARDS et al.) 30 July 1996, entire document.	1-63
Y	US 5480417 A (HASCOET et al.) 02 January 1996, entire document.	1-63
Y	US 6017361 A (MIKUS et al.) 25 January 2000, entire document.	1-63
Y	US 5370675 A (EDWARDS et al.) 06 December 1994, entire document.	1-63

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

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